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Application/Control Number: 10/718,899 Page 2

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This office action is responsive to communications filed 11/21/2003.

Claims 1 – 8 are pending.

1. The drawings filed on 11/21/2003 are acceptable subject to correction of the

informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing

Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is

required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Peyton Watkins on 09/02/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, page 1,line 4, - - 10/719,436 - - has been inserted after

"number".

In the specification, page 1,line 4, - - 11/21/2003, now U.S. Patent 6,908,377- -

has been inserted after "filed".

3. Claims 1 – 8 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art

of record neither shows nor teaches a combination for the claimed flame diverter

element that comprises in combination with other recited elements, an elongated

channel having opposing first and second end portions and a rupturable disc in fluid

communications with said elongated channel mounted to each of said opposing first and second end portions; and, first and second vapor flow channels disposed in said elongated channel, said first and second vapor flow channels each having an inlet and outlet, one of said inlet having a predetermined spacing from said rupturable disc at one of said opposing first and second end portions; and one of said outlet having a predetermined spacing from the other end of said elongated channel, either of said first and second vapor flow channels being configured to receive process vapor from a flammable process and to form a primary flow path for process vapor propagation between said elongated channel and the other of said first and second vapor flow channels to a downstream process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh Krishnamurthy whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 4914. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frederick Nicolas, can be reached on (571) 272 – 4931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 – 8300.

Art Unit: 3753

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., PE

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 3753